

**Colchester Parks & Recreation Commission**

**October 1, 2007**

**7:00 p.m. Town Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** J. Cohen, L. Dimock, C. Ferrante, N. Kaplan, S. O'Leary, L. Stephenson and clerk E. Kessler

**Members Absent:** S. Ashe, J. Barr, D. Kendrick, E. Kundahl, K. Wright and Liaison G. Cordova

**Public Present:** Mike Gatesman, President, Men's Softball and Paul Scheibelein, President, Youth Basketball

**Call to Order:**

- S. O'Leary called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Citizen's Comments:**

- No comments received

**Acceptance of Minutes:** September 10, 2007

- *S. O'Leary asked for a motion to amend the Minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting to read under New Business - Park Signage; permit required – the date should be October 1, 2007 and not October 7, 2007 and under Adjournment Moved By should be E. Kundahl and not N. Kaplan.*

*Moved by: C. Ferrante  
Seconded by: L. Stephenson  
Abstained: N. Kaplan  
Motion carried*

**Reading of Correspondence:**

- S. O'Leary read a letter to the Commission addressed to Jay Cohen from Colchester Adult Softball, signed by Lynne Stephenson, President and Mike Gatesman, President. The letter stated concerns about the Sports League Endorsement Policy requiring 75% of players to be town residents.

Commission discussed and agreed that the philosophy of the percentage was not really considered for the adult leagues, just youth. N. Kaplan suggested that the percentage could perhaps be grandfathered with limitations.

Commissions agrees with 50% to be town residents at the adult level and this could be revisited if more out of towners sign up. S. O'Leary asked L. Stephenson and M. Gatesman of the Adult Leagues if they also agree with the 50% and they responded positively. S. O'Leary would like to go ahead and implement this policy change to take effect before Spring 2008. J. Cohen stated it should be reviewed and approved before January 2008.

- *S. O'Leary asked for a motion to alter the Sports League Endorsement Policy with concern to Adult League Sports to be 50% rather than 75% to town residency or employment in Colchester*

*Moved by: C. Ferrante  
Seconded by: N. Kaplan  
Abstained: L. Stephenson  
Motion carried*

- *S. O'Leary asked for a motion to amend the previous motion to add tax payers*

*Moved by: C. Ferrante  
 Seconded by: N. Kaplan  
 Abstained: L. Stephenson  
 Motion carried*

Commission further discussed that endorsed leagues have priority over non-endorsed leagues for field use. Applications would have to be in now to implement new policy change for Spring 2008. J. Cohen to send email to each league president. Will be sent to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

- *L. Stephenson made a recommendation to move New Business before Committee Reports.*
- *S. O'Leary asked for a motion to move New Business before Committee Reports.*

*Moved by: L. Stephenson  
 Seconded by: C. Ferrante  
 Motion carried*

**New Business**

- **Eagle Scouts Project:** Anthony Morano, a Colchester Eagle Scout, gave a presentation on how he would like to improve the condition of the gazebo at the Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands property. He presented pictures on the poor condition of the gazebo and his plan to improve it. A. Morano would like to power wash, sand, fill in the carvings and stain the gazebo. N. Kaplan asked what the time frame would be for a project like this and he stated that it would first have to be approved with the Board of Eagles, which may take one month. It should only take about one month to complete, weather permitting.

N. Kaplan recommended that a press release be put out so the public is aware of this much needed project.

M. Gatesman asked if the color of the stain would be an issue and that maybe it would need to go to the Board of Selectman for final review.

S. O'Leary and Commission agreed with project and asked A. Morano once it is approved by the Board of Eagles, to let Parks & Recreation know and they will help with a press release and contact information or a letter to make the public aware.

**Committee Reports**

- **Facility Task Force:** J. Cohen stated that they've received a near final draft. S. O'Leary asked once summarization and architect drafts are done and approved at Board of Selectmen, what's next. J. Cohen stated that the general tasks will be completed in phases. P. Scheibelein asked if they build new fields, do we eliminate a field up at the park and J. Cohen stated there would be no elimination. N. Kaplan commented that all fields are multi-use fields and are not specific. If they were specific, they would not be used in the off season.
- *S. O'Leary asked for a motion to accept the Facility Task Force Report*

*Moved by: C. Ferrante  
 Seconded by: L. Stephenson  
 Motion Carried*

- **Facilities:** C. Ferrante stated nothing to report at this time.
- **Finance/Administration:** J. Cohen stated that they need to have a workshop for the Strategic Plan. S. O'Leary would like to take action in January, 2008, but L. Dimock recommended mid-November, 2007. Meeting tentatively set for November 14, 2007 at 6:30 at the Youth Center, if available.
- **Programs:** L. Dimock stated nothing to report at this time. She also mentioned that she would have volunteers for the Haunted Hayride, but needs more information.

**Old Business**

- **Attendance Review:** S. O'Leary reminded the Commission about their requirements as a member and what the expectations are. E. Kessler to keep attendance updated monthly on members.

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report:**

- Members read report. No discussion. L. Dimock had a question about available parking for CYF on Upton Rd. J. Cohen stated that there would be tree removal involved and L. Dimock requested that the pricing be forwarded to her for review as CYF may have monies available for a donation. S. Ganon, Secretary of CYF, will be checking into an insurance rider for possible parking at this location.

*S. O'Leary asked for a motion to accept the Parks & Recreation Director's Report*

*Moved by: N. Kaplan  
Seconded by: C. Ferrante  
Motion Carried*

**Parks & Recreation Program Director's Report:**

- Members read report. No discussion. J. Cohen stated that Parks & Recreation is looking for volunteers for the Haunted Hayride and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Line Trail Ghost Run.

*S. O'Leary asked for a motion to accept the Parks & Recreation Program Director's Report*

*Moved by: C. Ferrante  
Seconded by: L. Dimock  
Motion Carried*

**General Comments:**

- C. Ferrante expressed concern about an East Haddam team that has been using R3 on a regular basis. C. Ferrante has spoken to the coach several times about not being able to use R3 with no results. S. O'Leary mentioned calling the police next time and in the mean time to contact East Haddam to let them be aware of this situation and to put the word out to all coaches.
- L. Dimock asked if you overseed the fields, do you need to topsoil. J. Cohen stated yes.
- L. Stephenson suggested bolting down the benches in the dugout.
- C. Ferrante mentioned that there were two separate incidents after a Wednesday night practice at the RecPlex where a car parked at third base behind R2 and drove onto R3.

**Adjournment:**

- *S. O'Leary asked for a motion to Adjourn at 8:55 p.m.*

*Moved by N. Kaplan  
Seconded by L. Dimock  
Motion Carried*

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Kessler